

1644

Mr. Vice-Chancellors

## S P E E C H

TO HIS  
MAJESTIE,A T  
Christ-Church in Oxford,  
O N  
New Yeares Day :

When in the name of the whole  
Vniversitie, he presented his Majestie  
with a faire Guilt Cup, and two hun-  
dred pounds of Gold in it.



Printed at Oxford by Leonard Lichfield. 1643.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor

SPEECH

TO HIS

MAJESTY

Chief-Justice in Oxford

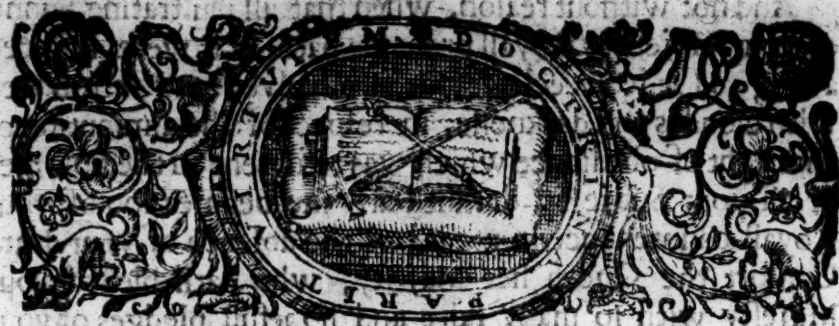
ON

New Years Day

When in the name of the whole  
University he presented his Majesty  
with a golden Cup and in which  
were poured of Gold in it



Printed by James Smith at the Press of the University of Oxford



Master Vice-Chancellors Speech to  
His sacred Majestie at his entertainment  
at Christ Church in Oxford on Newyeers day.



AY it please your sacred Majesty, that  
I in the name of this University, may  
salute your Highnesse with the same  
words and wishes that the Noble  
Poet *Horace* once of old said to that  
great favourite of *Augustus*, and Pa-  
tron of desert, *Mecenas*, according  
to that Poets testimony *avis edic-  
regibus*; namely, *spectandum satis est &  
donatum cum rude quæris.*

*Mecenas iterum antiquo me includere ludo;*

*Non eadem est ætas.*

Never any words ever suited our purpose with a more ef-  
ficacious aptitude: for now wee may justly say in this Uni-  
versity, *non eadem est ætas*, the face of times are so wrinckled  
on the sudden, that they who not long since beheld them  
young, faire and flourishing, looke upon them now, as if  
thy were quite banished their memory, they appeare so  
decayed, aged and uncomely, as if the Chaos were re-  
turned againe, and the fabricke of our *English* world shat-  
ter into a rude and undigested masse of confusion.



And not without reason, when that all illustrating Sunne  
of your Majesties Royall presence hath, as it were, suffered  
a long and hideous eclipse, been obolved and surrounded  
with cloudes and darknesse, in respect of the diminution of  
that light of obedience which was refulgent in the bosomes  
of all your Subjects, darkned are the beames too of your  
Royall countenance in regard of the absence of your deare  
Consort the Queen her Majesty, who hath blessed your  
Majesty with so many faire and hopefull pledges of your  
loves; so many sweet and gracious Princes of both sexes,  
that they doe as those in the Psalmist, sit like Olive bran-  
ches round about your table; darkned they are also in  
regard of the still increasing and over-flowing troubles  
and distractions that so riot in your Majesties Domini-  
ons, a streame of blood which hath issued from the bo-  
dies of your wounded and slaughtered Subjects, like a  
purple cloud, shadowing the accustomed rayes that used  
to cheerfully to issue out from your Majesties eyes, which  
now seeme all to be transformed into the very Ideas of  
pensiveness and sadnesse; so that we may with much  
griefe of heart say of your Grace, *O quantum mutatus ab  
illa*; How much are you altered from that King you were,  
when you used before these civill warres to grace our  
Universitie with your Royall presence, when nought was  
heard in our Colledges, Halls and Houses, nay, in this  
whole City, but the voyce of joy and gladnesse; but  
now, *non eadem est ætas*, the gallant and learned Orati-  
ons made here in entertainment of your Majestie, are  
now reduced to this poore unworthy Speech of mine,  
the meaneft of your Highnesse Subjects, instead of those  
pregnant issues of wit and fancy which the nimble brains  
of our Poets have invented to fill the Scene of your wel-  
come hither. Nothing is heard here at this great Festivall  
of our Redeemers nativity, but the tongue of mourn-  
ing, the Universitie being a very theatre of silence, though  
wee must confesse our selves more obliged to the boun-  
ty

of the Almighty then any Citie in your Majesties  
 Kingdomes, in that he hath blessed us thus long with being  
 esteemed worthy to enjoy your Majesties presence; and  
 so that never forgotten benefit hath a little revived and  
 refreshed our drooping soules; yet the sense of our neigh-  
 bours sufferings comes like the ill *Gens* into our imagi-  
 nations to affright them with the horror of their ghostly  
 and hideous countenances; *Non nobis solum nati sumus*,  
 wee were not worthy the Religion wee profess, if wee  
 should not have a fellow-feeling of the afflictions of our  
 Country and its inhabitants, who groane as the *Israelites*  
 did under the *Egyptians*, under the oppressive weight of  
 their burthens, so insupportable, that they would cracke  
 the shoulders of another *Atlas* to sustaine them, their  
 burthens which comprehend the contracted weight of all  
 miseries incident to mortality; since all of them are cha-  
 ractered in this civil warre. This civill warre that hath  
 robbed the Kingdome of the ancient tranquillitie, the  
 Church of its so despised ornaments, the Subjects of their  
 estates quiet, may, lives, and many of them undone past  
 all reparation or recovery by these military tumults, your  
 facted Majestie will be pleased to afford mee an indul-  
 gent pardon for my expatiating so much on this point of  
 the Subjects calamity, it is not that I dare be so dis-  
 loyall, to believe any fault of it rests in your Majesty,  
 but out of the tender compassion and hearty considera-  
 tion of their afflictions, which wee all hope your Ma-  
 jesties paternall and pious care will in good time recti-  
 fie, for this particular City, but especially for the body  
 of this University, which this yeere is under my govern-  
 ment, unworthy as I am of that charge, had not your  
 Majesties comfortable and all-quickning sight removed  
 away the clouds that shadowed us; certainly ere this  
 darknesse had encompassed us round about: here would  
 have beene no need of a Vice-chancellor, when there  
 would have been no Students to governe; no need of



Schooles, when there would have been none to have been taught in them. No Science Liberrall practised in the Colledges, whence all the Practisers were fled for feare of persecution, of being plundered of their substances; nay, deprived (as it was probable enough) of their lives, for being loyally affected to Your Most Excellent Majestie.

In that great defection of the Israelites from the Tribe of *Judah* and Family of *David*, the Tribe of *Levi* stuck close to their rightfull King, so hath it in England to your Highnesse, in all these domestick broyles, not one of the Clergie (but some of factious spirits) deserting your cause: The two Universities, this and that of Cambridge, declaring themselves in your Majesties behalfe; and surely wee in Oxford had been justly branded with the title of ingratitude, if we should have relinquished your Grace, who have formerly, and at this present time, heaped upon us so many evident testimonies of your Royall Benignity to us, and your deare affection to the advancement of good literature, which as I before related, was here reduced to the last gasp, labouring as it were for life, till your Goodnesse, by transferring your Person and Presence hither, making this your winter residence, infus'd new life into the languishing Academy. The Fellows of Houses now returne to their chambers, secur'd by your Majestie from any feare of dangers. The young Students, that for their safeties were retired home to their fathers houses, haste back to the Colledges, proud that they shall have the happinesse to reside where they may see the light and favour of your Royall Countenance; So that (thanks be to God and and your Majestie) decayed learning begins here againe to respire and flourish.

The Romans in a noble gratitude to that great *Camillus*, who rescued them from the tyranny and ruine of the Galls under the conduct of *Brennus* brought upon them, would needs have conferr'd upon him the title of the second *Romulus*, the Founder of the City, and allowed him equall honour

honour with him. The same must wee, inspir'd with no lesse a gratefulnesse, tender to your Majestie, you are our second *Alured*, the second Founder of our Universitie; and if to save when lost, in some opinion, was as great an action of the Almighty, as to create man-kind out of nothing; Surely our reason must enforce us to acknowledge our selves as much indebted to your Highnesse, for our preservation and restitution, as to *Alured* for our foundation and institution. And so with the generall votes of the whole Universitie, this new yeere I present your Majestie in their names, with these wishes; Grace and Peace this yeare be multiplied upon Your Selfe, your absent Queene, and Royall Progenie. May the dew fall upon you all, and the blessings of *Jacob* be in your inheritance. May all these tumultuous and civill distractions end with the beginning of this yeere, and the rest of it be spent in imbalming and curing the many wounds of our English Israel. And to conclude, may Heavens best bountie be showed downe on you, its mightie and out-stretched Arme protect you. And as an humble and zealous testimony of the Universities desires to serve Your Sacred Majestie in their names, and as the best expression, they for the present can make of their loyaltie, I here beseech Your Highnesse, to accept this widdows mite, cast as this New Yeares Oblation into Your Treasurie, this Cup with two hundred pounds in gold, which is contained within it. 'Tis all, Royall Sir, our Universities decay'd debilitie hath to tender as an offering to Your Gracious Hands; our wishes desire it were an unexhaustible Indies: And so wee hope the intention of the gift will make us win favour in Your Eyes, so that Your Majestie will vouchsafe to accept it as graciously, as we present it humbly.

F I N I S.